

POEMS BY KŌBŌ DAISHI

*(Rendered by B. L. S.)*THE BU-PO-SO¹

Within the quiet forest,
 Alone in the straw-thatched hut,
 So early in the morning,
 I hear the sound of a bird.
 It sings of the Triple Treasure,
 'Tis the Bu-po-so.
 The bird has a voice for singing,
 A man has a mind for thinking,
 The voice and the mind,
 The clouds and the stream,
 Express the Buddha-wisdom.

PARTING²

Studying the same doctrine,
 Under one master,
 You and I are friends.
 See yonder white mists
 Floating in the air
 On the way back to the peaks.
 This parting may be our last meeting
 In this life.
 Not just in a dream,
 But in our deep thought,
 Let us meet often
 Hereafter.

¹ The Bu-po-so is a large bird found in the depth of forests in Japan, Korea, and China. It is sacred in Buddhism, for its song repeats the syllables *bu-po-so*: *bu*=*butsu*=Buddha; *po*=*ho*=Dharma=Law; *so*=Sangha=Brotherhood.

² The parting was with Giso, one of Kōbō's fellow-monks studying under Keikwa. "The master" refers to this Keikwa.

AŚVAGHOSHA

The enlightenment which you have gained
 Differs not from what belongs
 To ultimate reality itself
 Primarily-entirely :
 Such is the teaching of Aśvaghosha.

THE ENLIGHTENED MIND

1

From the beginning
 That which I sought
 Lay in my hands.
 How stupid I was
 To have thought it an echo
 Floating to me
 From beyond!

2

Now enlightened, back I look,
 And lo! this new mind of mine---
 What is it but that very one
 Which formerly was covered o'er
 With clouds?

3

Think not that the light appears
 With the clearing of the clouds;
 The moon has been there all the while
 Shining in the sky,
 For ages past.
 So does the mind
 Eternally abide in me.